

## NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division

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### **Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, gears-up for predicted Mississippi River flooding**

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 19, 2008 – The Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, initiated a Phase I floodfight at 7 a.m. today due to high Mississippi River stages with higher stages forecasted. The area of flooding is located in the northern portion of the Memphis District. The lands affected by the current high water are located along the headwater diversion channel of the Mississippi River near Dutchtown, Mo. Friday, flooding is forecast to begin along the west bank of the Mississippi River from Scott City, Mo., to the Arkansas-Missouri state line and on the east bank near Cairo, Ill.

Phase I floodfight activities begin when the river gage at Cairo, Ill., approaches approximately 49.0 feet or the Cape Girardeau, Mo., gage reaches 38.0 feet. The river stage at Cairo was 45.1 feet at 7 p.m. last night, with a crest of 55.0 expected on Tuesday, March 25. The river stage at Cape Girardeau was 31.0 at 7 p.m. last night, with a crest of 40.0 feet expected on Sunday, March 23.

During Phase I floodfight activities, Corps of Engineers personnel deploy to the field and monitor all federal flood control works including levees, flood walls and pumping stations. Corps personnel will continue to monitor rainfall in the Missouri, upper Mississippi and Ohio river basins, and National Weather Service forecasts to determine if Phase II floodfight activation is required.

The Corps' Division headquarters in Vicksburg, Miss, coordinates all floodfight activities in the Lower Mississippi Valley. The Corps' Emergency Operations Center in Memphis is directing floodfight activities in conjunction with the affected states, levee districts and other local interest groups.

The Federal flood protection works in the Lower Mississippi Valley protect many thousands of homes, millions of lives and vast tracts of fertile cropland. The Memphis District's flood control system has prevented more than \$4.3 billion in flood damages and protected more than five million acres of cropland in the last decade alone.

The Mississippi Valley Division includes portions of 12 states and encompasses 370,000 square miles. The [Mississippi Valley Division](#) includes six district offices, which are responsible for conducting programs and activities and are located in St. Paul, Minn.; Rock Island, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a major Army command with a broad set of missions and capabilities. One of its missions is to provide assistance, within its authorities, when natural disasters or other emergencies occur.

Emergency preparedness and response is primarily a state and local responsibility. However, in instances when the nature of the disaster exceeds the capabilities of state and local interests, the Mississippi Valley Division may provide help to save human life, prevent immediate human suffering or relieve property damage.

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